

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 6, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 2, 3, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected by the Examiner. With this response, claim 18 is amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 3, 18, 20, and 21 remain pending in this application with claims 8-16 having been withdrawn from consideration.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akahira (US Patent 6,471,352) in view Ueno (JP 09-166783) further in view of Ben-Zur (US Published Application No. 2005/0179708). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 3, and 18, 20, and 21 and request reconsideration.

The present application claims the benefit of foreign priority to Korean Patent Application No. 12464/2003, filed on February 27, 2003. The effective reference date of Ben-Zur under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is February 12, 2004. Therefore, the foreign priority filing date of February 27, 2003 antedates Ben-Zur. Applicants filed a certified copy of Korean Patent Application No. 12464/2003, on February 27, 2004 and, by the present response, hereby perfect the present claim to foreign priority by submitting a certified English language translation of Korean Patent Application No. 12464/2003.

Claims 2 and 3 each recite a method for forming an alignment layer having a combination of features including, for example, “driving the alignment material dropping unit from the first side to a second side of the stage to drop the alignment material through holes along a plurality of first dropping paths along a first dropping direction” and “shifting the alignment material dropping unit by a predetermined distance along a direction substantially perpendicular to the first dropping direction.”

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Akahira does not disclose “the specific movement of the alignment dropping unit.” Ueno, cited by the Examiner as teaching “the dropping unit panels can be used for dropping alignment material,” does not cure the deficiency acknowledged by the Examiner. The Examiner cites Ben-Zur as allegedly curing this deficiency. With the perfection of foreign priority, Ben-Zur is not available as a reference against the current application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the current rejection to claims 2 and 3 be withdrawn.

Claims 18, 20 and 21 each recite a method of forming an alignment layer of a liquid crystal display device having a combination of features including, for example, "wherein dropping first alignment material includes positioning the alignment material dropping unit at a first side of the substrate, and wherein dropping the second alignment material includes shifting the alignment material dropping unit along a second side opposite the first side of the substrate by a predetermined distance, and wherein the predetermined distance is smaller than a distance between the plurality of holes, such that the second dropping paths are disposed in the region at a separation distance from the first dropping paths between the first dropping paths, whereby the alignment material in the first and second dropping paths spread so that the alignment materials in the first and second dropping paths contact each other to form a layer of uniform thickness between the first and second dropping paths."

In rejecting claims 18, 20, and 21, the Examiner relies on Ben-Zur to teach movements of the dropping unit as described in the above quoted combination of features. As discussed above, Ben-Zur is not available as reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for the current application. As Akahira and Ueno do not teach or suggest the combined features of claims 18, 20, and 21, Applicants respectfully request that the current rejection to claims 18, 20, and 21 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the above amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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